

T H E
C O B L E R
T U R N ' D

Orattor.

LADIES and Gentlemen,——I am going to give you (as you shall all presently find) a Lecture on Lectures!——

But first and *foremost*, it is werry necessary that I shou'd give you some account of myself!——for a Man that can give no account of himself is to all intents and parposes a *Vagrum*!——

First, as to my name, *Lancelot Last*, at your *services*, by trade (that is, when I chose to follow it) a Shoe-maker; but happ'ning to see one of your Lecturers in our Town, and knowing him to be no better *Scholar* than myself, I was inspired as it were——So I threw by my *Lap-Stone*, kick'd up my *my Last*, gave up my *All*, and so set off to Lecture!——

I was at a loss at first what subject to begin upon——at last *Stronomy* came into my Head, but I found the Stars so far out of my reach, that when I dipp'd into that Science, I was lost as it were in a Cloud.

Then *Otomy* came into my Head, Oh! I was at home to a peg in *Otomy*, for, as to picking a Corn, pulling a Tooth, or curing the Gripes! no man more skilfuller than myself: but when I came to the *Amputation* of a Leg, (being naturally tender-hearted,) I found *that too cutting* a business for me.

Then I thought of *Chemistry*! why, that was somewhat in my way too; for as to your *Consarves* and *Presarves*, no man more *learneder* than myself:——But then thinks I to myself, thinks I, perhaps my Auditors may have a dislike to physic, and physic now-a-days; why what is it? why nothing but a Drug.

Then *Heraldry* came pop upon me; but happening to see the King's Arms painted upon a Hackney-Coach, with the Convicts going to Botany Bay, I thought the dignity of that Science was gone to the dogs; so I gave it up.

A friend of mine advis'd me to begin a Lecture on *Midwifry*; but I was *big* with a thousand *happrehensions* whenever I thought about it, so I gave it up; for I thought as how I should never be able to *deliver myself* on that subject.

I then thought about a Lecture on *Heads*; but my Friend, GEORGE ALEXANDER STEVENS, had dissected every Head in the kingdom so *well*, that I thought I shou'd be set down for one of his blockheads if I meddled with e'er a one of them.

I would have set about a Lecture on *Hearts*, but I cou'd find so few *good Ones*, that dam me, if I had the Heart to set about it.

Talking of *bad Hearts* put the *Law* into my head; so thinks I to myself, a Lecture on the Law wou'd be no bad thing; but then thinks I agen, *Lancelot Last*, the Law is no good thing of itself! now wou'dn't it be better if you cou'd make a good subject out of it? so I ponder'd and I ponder'd, till I found myself like a poor fly in a Cobweb; the Law puts me in mind of a Coffin, once in, never out agen, no, never out agen.

If none of these things will do! what, in the Name of Lucifer will do? Lucifer! why who the Devil is Lucifer? some great Orattor mayhap! It then came flap-dash upon me that a Lecture on Orattory wou'd be the best subject I could Lecture upon.

So here begins my Lecture on Orattory:——Ladies and Gentlemen! according to the Learned, (and I'm something of a *Scholar* myself) the word, *Orattor*, means *jawing*; because why? beca'e no man can speak without his jaws; now you thinks perhaps that I cannot give you a Latin *devination* for that word? why what's English for Oss? why bone to be sure, and the jaws being full of bones, is a fix'd proof that the word *Orattor* comes from *Ofs*.

——You'll say what is an Orattor? I answer, a Man!——what is he to do? to spake Vords;——what are Vords? why letters put together; but there can't be a Vord without a Wovel; becase why? why becase——Ah! cant!——

You'll ask what is the necessary qualifications? I answer he must first spit; then hem; then clap his hand to his breast; then turn up the whites of his eyes; then out comes a Vord, then another follows; so like a poor horse let him get on as fast as he can.

An Orattor should be a good Mimic too. Gad now I'm talking of Mimics, why I'm surrounded with Mimics, and they'll be for taking me off, but I'll save them all that trouble by taking myself off.

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Price THREE HALFPENCE.——Sold Wholesale and Retail, at No. 32, Marybone Street, Golden Square.

Printed by R. BASSAM, St. John's Street West Smithfield.